

REMARKS

Initially, is it noted that this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the recently allowed parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. U.S. Serial No. 09/754,942, filed January 4, 2001). Applicants choose not to prosecute original Claim 9 at this time and, therefore, it has also been cancelled.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 10 and new Claims 11 and 12 remains pending in the present divisional patent application. Independent Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowed Claim 5 of the parent application. It is further noted that new Claim 11 of the present divisional application is a combination of the subject matter of original Claim 10 and allowed Claim 11 of the parent application. Similarly, new Claim 12 of the present divisional application is a combination of the subject matter of original Claim 10 and allowed Claim 12 of the parent application.

In addition, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended, by the foregoing amendments, to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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